United Nations A/65/639

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 December 2010

Original: English

Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 45
Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 16 December 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with instructions received from the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 19 October 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina addressed to you (A/65/530), concerning an earlier letter dated 2 August 2010 from the Government of the United Kingdom (A/64/887).

The Government of the United Kingdom has no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, and their surrounding maritime areas.

While there are many elements to the United Kingdom's position on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, the principle of self-determination, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, underlies our position. There can be no negotiation on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands unless and until such time as the Falkland Islanders so wish. They have made clear that they wish to remain British.

The development of a hydrocarbons industry by the Falkland Islands Government is in full compliance with local and international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. It is part of the legitimate business of the Falkland Islands Government.

The Government of the United Kingdom remains open to discussions with the Government of Argentina on a whole range of issues relating to cooperation in the South Atlantic.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 45.

(*Signed*) Mark **Lyall Grant**

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